

FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: July 10, 2014

Division: Parks

Agenda Item: Addition to Logan Fishing Access Site (R3)

Action Needed: Endorsement

Time Needed on Agenda: 5 minutes

Background: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) owns a 1.5-acre property on the Gallatin River at Logan, which will soon be developed into the Logan Fishing Access Site. This land was donated to FWP in 2010, and the American Legion (AL) received an adjoining 1-acre parcel at the same time. The AL parcel had originally been planned as a veterans' access, but the Legion now proposes to transfer the land, free of charge, to FWP for incorporation into the Logan Fishing Access Site. FWP sees benefits in having this additional space at the site, and it would make our property contiguous with an adjoining acre of Gallatin County park property. The Logan Fishing Access is strategically located on a river reach where there is no established public access site. The closest FAS's are Gallatin Forks eight river miles upstream and Headwaters State Park five miles downstream.

Public Involvement Process & Results: Since this is a new proposal before the Commission, no public comment or involvement has been solicited to date. The public involvement process will begin in July with a draft Environmental Assessment covering site development plans together with this proposed land addition.

Alternatives and Analysis: Alternatives include acceptance of the proposed donation to expand the Logan Fishing Access Site to a total of 2.5 acres or rejection of the land donation. The Department believes acceptance of the property merits thorough consideration, as FWP ownership would preclude any potentially incompatible use on our eastern boundary, connect the FWP ownership to Gallatin County park property, and provide more space for public parking and river access.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale: FWP recommends approval to proceed with evaluation of this proposed addition to the Logan Fishing Access Site. If the evaluation is positive, FWP would bring the project back to the Commission for final approval.

Proposed Motion: I move that the Commission authorize the Department to evaluate acceptance of a one-acre addition to the Logan Fishing Access Site by donation from the American Legion.